

be entertaining to my readers; but may help to promote their improvement in many good and commendable qualities. It is true, indeed, that my language is very plain and homely. But what of that? As a good boy or a good girl is never the worse, nor will be less honoured and esteemed, because he is poor and wears an old hat and a tattered coat; so a good book is not a whit the less valuable (in my opinion) because the style is plain and in common use. Besides, as the good little folks, for whose improvement I am writing, have not skill enough, perhaps, (or at least not many of them) to make use of a Dictionary, I thought it would be most for their advantage to avoid all hard words and uncommon phrases, and to confine myself to pure *English*. I must acknowledge, indeed, that many petty writers, such as I am, have acted otherwise; and stuffed their little books with so many out-of-the-way expressions, and so many words which are borrowed from the learned and other languages, that at last they have made
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the inside of them as fine as the gilt paper that covers this I think they have done instead of instructing their children they ought to have done sense, they have only taught gibberish.

Nor is this all; for formerly presented my little misses with so many idleness, and such a number of meaningless rhymes, that the end, made greater babies than they were before; or, at least, done them little more service than had given them a rattle. Perhaps they will tell me my design was to teach them to read what?—For my part I have an opinion of them (and not?) that I believe they will while they are learning to read also, in some measure, of reason and understanding. I think, two, the latter, I think.